



Hunter Education Certification

Start the year off right by registering and taking the hunter education course.

If you plan to hunt during a Missouri firearms season or you are acting as an adult mentor, you **MUST** first complete an approved hunter education certification program and provide proof of completion **UNLESS**:

- You are 15 years or younger and will be hunting with a properly permitted adult mentor 18 years of age or older.
- You were born before January 1, 1967.
- You enrolled in a hunter education course but failed to pass the certification tests due to a developmental disability, and you received an exemption from MDC's Protection Division.
- You are 16 or older and have purchased an Apprentice Hunter Authorization and will be hunting with a properly permitted adult mentor 18 years of age or older.
- You are the landowner or lessee hunting on land you own or upon which you reside.

Our course has two parts: knowledge and skills. You must complete and pass both to earn your certificate.

PART ONE: KNOWLEDGE

Choose ONE of three convenient ways to complete the knowledge part.

Hunter Education Online. You **MUST** complete all the chapter reviews in order to receive your skills-session qualifier certificate, which you **MUST** show (bring a printed copy or display the PDF on your mobile device) to enter the skills session in part two.

OR

Self-study guide. Order a study guide online or pick one up at an MDC office. Study the illustrated guide, complete all chapter reviews, and present your completed guide at the skills session in part two.

OR

Classroom session. Register and attend a four-hour classroom session in order to receive your skills-session qualifier certificate which you must show to enter the skills session in part two.

PART TWO: SKILLS

Register for a skills session and pass the exam.

No matter how you complete the knowledge part and earn your skills-session qualifier certificate in step one, you **MUST** register for and attend a four-hour skills session. You **MUST** also bring your skills-session qualifier certificate or study guide with all chapters completed to gain entry. The skills session includes a mandatory 35-question, multiple-choice final exam. After completing step two successfully, you will receive a temporary certificate so you can purchase a permit and hunt immediately.

We offer these courses year-round, so please visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/> for more information or to register for a course.

Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

January 18 and 19, 2014
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

It's time to bundle up your family and join the excitement of viewing eagles along the Mississippi River from the historic old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Viewing scopes will be stationed on the bridge to allow close-up views of eagles. The World Bird Sanctuary will present an educational program featuring a live eagle. Programming includes a hands-on exhibit of local birds, a full-size replica of an eagle's nest, and warming tent activities including children's art. Visitors will also enjoy Lewis and Clark living history demonstrations at both bridge entrances. Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes. No reservations required.

** See page 6 for more Eagle Days activities at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area.



Photo courtesy of Dan Zarlenga

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. If calling, leave a detailed message on ext. 1755. Reservations will be accepted beginning at 12 a.m. on the day of registration. You will be contacted for confirmation. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Our programs make it easy for Missourians of all ages to learn to hunt.

Beginning Handgun, Parts 1 and 2

Jan 2 and 4 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m. and Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This two-part program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session on Thursday evening, then a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin December 2.)

Trigger Time – Handgun

Jan 11 • Saturday • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. (Reservations December 11.)

Metallic Rifle Cartridge Reloading

Jan 16 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Now that factory rifle ammunition may cost \$35 or more per box, it is worth the time and effort to learn how to reload your own rifle ammunition. We will demonstrate the low cost basic equipment needed for reloading rifle cartridges, and the simple methods of producing quality accurate ammunition. (Reservations begin December 16.)

Youth-Only Managed Firearms Deer Hunts

Watch for youth-only managed firearms deer hunts that will take place next fall at the following conservation areas in the St. Louis Region:

- Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
- August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
- Weldon Spring Conservation Area

The dates have not yet been set. Please refer to the 2014 Fall Deer & Turkey Regulations Booklet, which will be available early summer. The youth hunt information will be provided in the booklet. Application dates for managed hunts are July 1–31, 2014.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Predator Hunting

Jan 15 • Wednesday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 8 and up)

Join us as we cover all aspects of predator hunting in Missouri including coyotes and bobcats. This class covers the tactics and techniques for hunting these illusive predators. Ages 8–15 must be accompanied by an adult. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin December 16.)



Coyote

Metallic Reloading

Jan 16 • Thursday • 6–8:30p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This class will introduce you to the equipment, materials, and techniques of reloading metallic cartridges, and give you hands-on experience of reloading rifle and/or handgun ammunition. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin December 16.)

Shotshell Reloading

Jan 22 • Wednesday • 6–8:30p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Here is your opportunity to learn the process of reloading shotgun shells using simple techniques and inexpensive equipment. In this hands-on class, you will produce quality shotshells at a fraction of the cost of factory ammunition. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin December 23.)

Women's Introduction to Firearms

Jan 23 • Thursday • 6–8:30p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

Want to learn about different types of firearms? This class will teach you safety, types of firearms, the different actions, and the benefits of each type and action. We will go over what to look for if purchasing a firearm and help you feel comfortable in the presence of firearms. This class will be held in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin December 2.)

Youth Rabbit Hunt

Jan 25 • Saturday • 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

(Ages 11–15)

Want to learn about rabbit hunting? Join us for a rabbit hunt at August A. Busch Conservation Area. We will start in Busch Conservation Area classrooms where we will discuss biology, safety, clothing, firearms, shot size, hunting techniques, and more. Then we will head out to the field for an actual rabbit hunt. This is for youth ages 11–15. Must be accompanied by an adult, or mentor, and be Hunter Education certified. Orange is required. (Reservations begin December 26.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday: 2–8 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Firearms Care and Cleaning

Jan 29 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Do you know how to properly clean your firearm? Join our experts as they go over cleaning the different firearm actions, equipment needed, materials, and techniques to keep your firearm in top condition. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin December 30.)



Eastern cottontail rabbit

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Volunteer milestones

Claire Anderson	100 hours
Marti Pawol	100 hours
John Sanders	1000 hours

Bobcats in Our Midst

Jan 8 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12)

The secretive bobcat...have you ever seen one? Come inside on a winter day to learn what's special about bobcats. They are one of our most successful predators and they play an important role in the wildlife community; let's find out why. We will also play a predator-prey game to test our bobcat skills! (Reservations begin December 23.)

Returning Giants: Bison and Elk

Jan 14 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.
(Ages 4 and up)

How magnificent these "giants" are! And how lucky we are to have some back again! These huge wild mammals awaken our admiration and imagination. What was the prairie like with thundering masses of bison (also called buffalo)? What were the woods like with roaming herds of elk? Join us for "giant" fun with stories, songs, activities, and crafts. (Reservations begin December 31.)

Amazing Owls

Jan 24 • Friday • 6:30–8:30 p.m.
(Ages 7 and up)

Whooo's in the forest this time of year? Some of our Missouri owls stick around all year, and are especially vocal in the winter months. We'll discuss some of their amazing adaptations, dissect some pellets to see what they're eating, and take a hike to see what they're saying! Dress for the weather, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a flashlight. (Reservations begin January 10.)

Jr. Audubon Great Backyard Bird Count

Jan 25 • Saturday • 10–11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12)

Learn how you can help scientists with the Great Backyard Bird Count, the largest bird survey in the world. This year we will use powerful binoculars to observe and identify birds in the wild and make bird feeders out of recycled materials. (Reservations begin January 8.)

A Special Evening at the Nature Center

An Evening with Raptors

Jan 31 • Friday • 7–9 p.m.

This is a fun evening for all ages. Join us as we welcome back the Missouri falconers and their hunting partners! Falconry is a sport reported as far back as 700 B.C.E. and is still practiced today. Learn what falconry is and how to become a falconer.

The evening will begin in the auditorium with a presentation on raptors and the art of falconry. Following the presentation you will have an opportunity to "meet and greet" the birds and their hunting partners, and see some of the equipment used in the sport of falconry. Be sure to bring your cameras. (Reservations are required and begin immediately.)

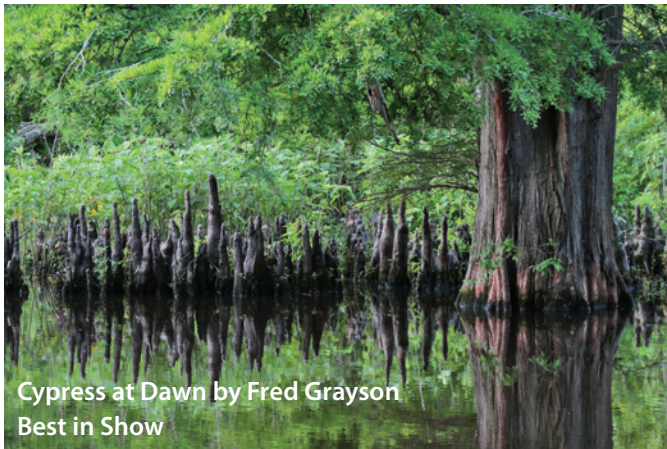


Harris's hawk

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

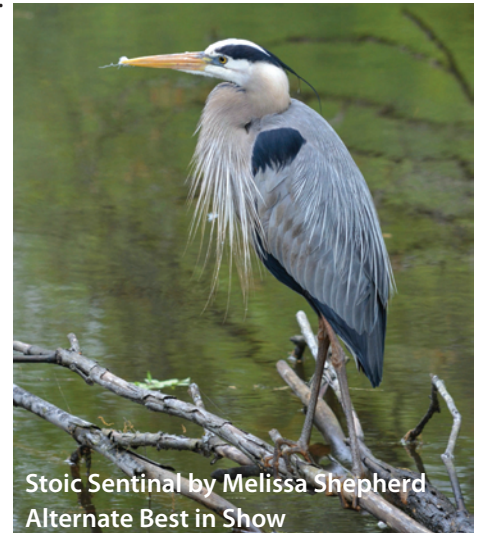
11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Mingo Swamp Photo Contest



Cypress at Dawn by Fred Grayson
Best in Show

The Mingo Swamp Photo contest is in its eighth year. Administered by the Mingo Swamp Friends Group, the photo contest is an effort to showcase the natural wonders of Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. The contest is separated into several categories (Landscape, Native Wildlife, Native Plant, People in Nature, and Artistically Enhanced) and divided into three levels of competition (Youth, Adult, and Professional).



Stoic Sentinel by Melissa Shepherd
Alternate Best in Show

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1944 under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as a resting and wintering area for waterfowl and other migratory birds and for the preservation of bottomland hardwood forest.

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/mingo>

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Pictures in the Sun

Jan 29 • Wednesday • 9:30–10:45 a.m.
(Ages 5-7)

Awaken new curiosity to the shapes, textures, and cycles of nature with a winter art project. Kids create a woodland craft that connects science and art using bark rubbings, photo sensitive paper, and leaves for a unique look at plant identification. (Reservations begin January 10.)

Homeschool Wildlife Ecology Series-Endangered Species

Jan 14 • Tuesday • 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

(Ages 6-12)

School in the Field returns this year as we take on wildlife. Ecology is the relationship or interaction of living things to each other and to the environment. This series will engage students in activities and lessons focusing on Missouri wildlife and habitats. Lessons will be divided into two age appropriate groups; 6-9 years and 10-12 years. Choose a class or sign up for all four. Class size is limited. Future classes are: February 18–Animal Ecology, March 11–Aquatic Ecology, April 22–Plant Ecology. (Reservations begin January 2.)



Tree bark rubbing

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Full Moon on the Confluence

Jan 17 • Friday • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

Discover nature by viewing the full moon's light reflected on the confluence of America's two largest rivers. Columbia Bottom is home to this great treasure and the view is spectacular on a crisp winter night. Join us at the confluence parking Lot N for a short walk to the viewing area above the water's edge. Bring your camera to take advantage of the photo opportunity. Weather permitting, and if you like, join us for a more extended walk in the woods. (Reservations begin January 3.)

It's Eagle Days in the St. Louis region and, as a satellite for the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge activities, Columbia Bottom has an exciting line-up this year! Whether you are an early bird, middle of the road, or a late comer there's a session for you. See individual program descriptions below.

Eyes on Raptors

Jan 18 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Jan 19 • Sunday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

(All ages)

Birds of prey come in numerous shapes and sizes and exhibit a variety of hunting techniques. From the helicopter-like antics of the American kestrel to the "hand-fishing" feats of the bald eagle, one thing is common: all are enjoyable to watch. Join us at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, where a variety of raptors are known to occur this time of year. Scopes will be set up at the Confluence Platform, near parking lot N, where America's favorite raptor usually hangs out. Be sure to keep your eyes open on the way in too. (No reservations required.)

Snapshots to Photographs:

Nature Photography Tips

Jan 18 • Saturday • 10–11 a.m.

Jan 19 • Sunday • 10–11 a.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

Go from snapshot to photograph! Whether capturing landscapes, sunsets or flowers, this workshop will give owners of point-and-shoot cameras and beginning DSLR users some tips and techniques to help make better pictures. Specifically geared to nature photography, we'll cover important photography principles, some basic operations for taking control of your camera to get the results you want, helpful gear to have along, and a few fundamentals of composition. Bring your camera! (Reservations begin January 3.)

Golden Hour Eagle Watch

Jan 18 • Saturday • 6:45–8 a.m.

(Ages 15 and up)

Photographers call this time of the day the "golden hour." Take a short early morning walk to the edge of the Mississippi River and watch the eastern sky change colors as dawn turns to daylight. An extra attraction at this time of year is the likelihood of seeing bald eagles as they soar above the Mississippi River in search of food. Their increased numbers are evidence that Missourians care about conserving fish, forest, and wildlife. Dress for the weather, and don't forget your binoculars and camera! Meet at the front entrance gate to Columbia Bottom. (Reservations begin January 4.)

Regal Eagles

Jan 19 • Sunday • 1–3 p.m.

(All Ages)

Winter has come to Missouri and so have the eagles! Did you know the bald eagle became our national emblem in 1782? Let's learn about eagles and the adaptations that make these magnificent birds so special. The Missouri conservation story about how these once endangered birds have made a tremendous come back is inspiring! We will also help you discover nature by sharing some of the best spots where you can go for eagle viewing. (Reservations begin January 5.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300



American white pelican

Winter Wildlife Hike - Dresser Island CA

Jan 4 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

(Adults)

Break out of winter cabin fever! Discover a place to hike along a big river and see pelicans, ducks, geese, eagles, hawks, and more! Dresser Island Conservation Area offers a 6.5 mile hike and is a winter wildlife haven located near West Alton in St. Charles County. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous. Generally flat, open hiking. However, winter weather can make the hike more strenuous. An optional 3-mile hike is available. (Reservations begin December 20.)

Regal Eagles – Homeschool Special

Jan 9 • Thursday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Eagles are some of the most majestic of all birds. In Missouri, the bald eagle is becoming more common and even golden eagles are sometimes seen. Learn about bald eagle adaptations, migration patterns and habitat requirements so you can help conserve this once endangered bird. (Reservations begin December 27.)

Off-Trail Navigation with Accuracy

Jan 18 • Saturday • 12:30–4 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 and up)

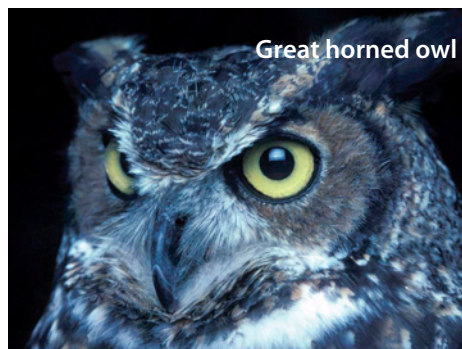
Learn off-trail navigation techniques on a two to three mile trek at Howell Island Conservation Area near Chesterfield. Practice accurate compass use, reading an area map and using GPS functions to find waypoints in the woods. Effort = Moderate. Flat terrain with downed trees and vegetation to avoid. (Reservations begin January 3.)

Pictures in the Sun

Jan 21 • Tuesday • 10–11:15 a.m.

(Ages 5-7)

Awaken new curiosity about the shapes, textures, and cycles of nature with a winter art project. Create a woodland craft that connects science and art using bark rubbings, photo sensitive paper, and leaves for a unique look at plant identification. (Reservations begin January 7.)



Owl Prowl

Jan 25 • Saturday • 6:30–8 p.m.

(Families)

Being in the woods at night is an adventure! Ever wonder “who’s” awake while you’re sleeping? Learn about owls and take a short hike to call and listen for owls in the woods. (Reservations begin January 10.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Volunteer milestones

Brandi Martin 100 hours

Laser Night Hike 2.0 – New Route, New Challenge

Jan 25 • Saturday • 6–9:30 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 and up)

Dark of night. Two miles through the woods, following a straight path you create with a compass and lasers in search of three waypoints at the Busch Conservation Area. You’ll be armed with flashlight, compass, map, and laser pointers as you embark on this nighttime adventure! Effort = Moderate. Off-trail hiking through field and forest at night over mostly flat terrain. (Reservations begin January 10.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Volunteer milestones

Scott Thompson 100 hours



Regal Eagles – Homeschool Special

Jan 7 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.
(Ages 7–12)

Eagles are some of the most majestic of all birds. In Missouri, the bald eagle is becoming more common and even golden eagles are sometimes seen. Learn about bald eagle adaptations, migration patterns and habitat requirements so that you can help conserve this once endangered bird. (Reservations begin December 27.)

Owl Prowl

Jan 10 • Friday • 6:30–8 p.m.
(Families)

Who's that hooting it up during the night? Owls, that's who! Learn what makes owls such effective nighttime hunters and why they hoot so much this time of year. Discover why it's so important to protect these incredible birds and their habitat. Please dress for the weather as we'll venture outdoors to search for these elusive nocturnal predators. (Reservations begin December 27.)

Backyard Maple Sugaring– Landowners and Homeowners

Jan 23 • Thursday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
or Jan 25 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
(Adults)

So you've got maple trees and you love maple syrup... put the two together and you've got Backyard Maple Sugaring! Develop your own backyard maple syrup operation from tree identification to cooking. New for 2014 is "Tubing." Learn to use this new technology that increases sap production and makes sap collection easier. (Reservations begin January 9.)

Backyard Maple Sugaring– Tree Tapping for Homeschool Families

Jan 24 • Friday • 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
(Families)

Maple Sugaring is here and it's time to tap the trees! Make maple syrup fun for your family, even with just one or two trees at home. Learn about sugar maple trees, how to tap trees and turn sap into syrup. (Reservations begin January 10.)

Maple Sugar Festival

Feb 1 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
(All Ages)

It's maple sugar time! You've been waiting all winter, and it's finally here! Venture outdoors to Rockwoods Reservation and experience conservation success and forest resources at its finest - and sweetest! Visit the Sugar Bush to see trees tapped and collect the precious sap. Boil the sap down like Colonial Americans at the Three Kettle Station and using a more modern method at the Sugar Shack. Taste delicious syrup, sugar on snow taffy and pure maple sugar. More importantly, learn do to all of this right in your own backyard. It's a day your whole family will enjoy. (No reservations necessary. Parking will be available at Rockwoods Reservation and off-site via a shuttle bus. Roadway signs and staff will direct vehicles to parking locations.)